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of each of the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and South Carolina; while two chapters are given to the minor navies of the Northern and Southern states. It is an interesting fact that these individual states had as elaborate machinery for controlling their navies as did the Continental Congress—naval boards, commissioners of the navy, and boards of war. There was also elaborate naval legislation, and admiralty courts not always amenable to the regulations proposed by Congress.

The book contains a most useful table of contents, a fine index, and a valuable bibliography of manuscript as well as of printed sources. An appendix contains a list of commissioned officers in the navy and marine corps, and a list of armed vessels in the service of the United States during the Revolution.

C. H. VAN TYNE.

*Vida de Herrán.* Biografía escrita por EDUARDO POSADA y PEDRO M. IBÁÑEZ y premiada en el Concurso del Centenario. [Biblioteca de Historia Nacional, III.] (Bogotá: Imprenta Nacional. 1903. Pp. 477.)

*Los Comuneros.* *El Vasallo Instruido*, por J. DE FINESTRAD. *El Comunero Galán*, por A. M. GALÁN. *Reseña Zipaquireña*, por L. ORJUELA. *Los Comuneros de Neiva y Los Llanos. Apéndice.* [Biblioteca de Historia Nacional, IV.] (Bogotá: Imprenta Nacional. 1905. Pp. xvi, 453.)

THE *Biblioteca de Historia Nacional*, an undertaking of Señores Eduardo Posada and Pedro M. Ibáñez, is designed to provide a collection of inedited and rare materials and monographs on the history of Colombia, principally in the nineteenth century. Volume I. (Bogotá, 1902) contains, under the title *La Patria Boba*, three inedited documents of considerable interest: *Tiempos Coloniales*, by J. A. Vargas Jurado (a chronological history from 1714 to 1764 by a contemporary); *Libro de varias noticias particulares que han sucedido en esta capital de Santa Fé de Bogotá . . . desde el año de 1743*, by José María Caballero (Bogotá, September, 1813); and *Poema que contiene la historia de la entrada del tirano Simón Bolívar, y establecimiento del titulado Congreso en esta capital del Nuevo Reino de Granada, con noticia de su libertad por las victoriosas armas del Rey Nuestro Señor*, by D. José Antonio de Torres y Peña, Cura de Tabio, 1816 (pp. 275-476). Volume II. consists of documents, in the main inedited, relative to the life and career of Nariño, with an introduction and a few foot-notes. The title of the volume is: *El Precursor: Documentos sobre la Vida Pública y Privada del General Antonio Nariño* (Bogotá, 1903).

The subject of volume III., Pedro Alcántara Herrán, lived 1800-1872, is one of the most prominent figures in Colombian history. He joined the revolutionary forces in 1814 and by 1828 had risen to the rank of general, doing service under both Sucre and Bolívar. He was minister of war in 1830; military governor of Panama, 1836-1837; minis-

ter of interior and foreign affairs, 1837-1839; suppressed the insurrection of Pasto, 1840; was president of New Granada, 1841-1845; was three times minister to the United States, 1847-1849, 1855-1859, and 1861; and was on various occasions commander-in-chief, senator, and deputy. His career thus extended through all five stages of Colombian history, from the war of independence to the organization of the United States of Colombia in 1863. The present biography, constructed from the sources, gives a clear account of his life and of the principal events in which he figured, and is notably free from exaggerations and declamation. Nearly one-half the volume is devoted to *pièces justificatives*.

The fourth volume deals with the revolt of the Comuneros in 1781, which together with the insurrection of Tupac Amaru in Peru in the same year, marks the first assertion on the part of the creoles of their political rights, and was the forerunner of the revolution for independence. The first half of the volume consists of an inedited narrative of rare interest written in the year 1783 by the capuchin Joaquín de Finestrada; the second piece is an account, with documents, of the career of José Antonio Galán (1749-1782), one of the leaders of the revolt, by the late Colombian historian, Señor Angel M. Galán; the third is a history of the events in the commune of Zipaquirá based on original materials; the rest of the volume (pp. 363-449) contains a number of original documents. The introduction to the volume is excellent. The contents of the four volumes which have been briefly recited attest the exceptional interest of the series as a whole, and Señores Posada and Ibáñez have proved themselves not only judicious editors but competent historians as well.

LUIS M. PÉREZ.

*The First Forty Years of Washington Society.* Edited by GAILLARD HUNT. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1906. Pp. xii, 424.)

MR. HUNT has made an interesting selection from the correspondence of Margaret Bayard Smith, the wife of Samuel Harrison Smith of Philadelphia, who came to Washington, D. C., in 1800 and established the *National Intelligencer*. Mr. Smith was appointed by Madison in 1813 the first Commissioner of the Treasury Department and was from 1809 to 1819 President of the Bank of Washington and later President of the Branch Bank of the United States. The letters in this volume, with a few exceptions, were written by Mrs. Smith to members of her family, and cover the period from shortly after her arrival in Washington, in the latter part of 1800, to within a few years of her death, which occurred in January, 1844. Mrs. Smith wrote freely of persons and events, and during her more than forty years of residence in Washington she had unusual opportunities of becoming intimately acquainted with many of those most prominent in social life.

These letters illustrate forcibly that for the first thirty years there was but one social circle in Washington, and that dominated by those in political life. The Capitol was the meeting-place for society people.